

REMARKS

I. Office Action Summary

Claims 1-12 are presently pending. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner also stated that the drawings were informal. Substantively, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as set forth below:

<u>Claims</u>	<u>Prior Art Reference(s)</u>
1, 4 and 11	Hogan et al. (US 6,016,343)
3, 6 and 8	Hogan + Pepe et al. (US 5,742,905)
2, 5, 7, 9-10 and 12	Hogan + Official Notice

II. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner stated that the drawings are informal, however no guidance was given to Applicant as to what the Examiner believes is informal and the Examiner has not stated that new drawings are required. Applicant also notes that no form PTO-948 was attached indicating any official objection. Clarification of the Examiner's objections (if any) to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Applicant has amended claim 8 to correct the erroneously listed dependency. Claim 8 now depends from claim 7.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Rejection of claims 1, 4 and 11 over Hogan et al.

Claim 1

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as obvious over Hogan et al. (US 6,016,343). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 1 relates to a system for generating billing information for unrelated host computer networks using security services from a remotely located security server. The system includes, *inter alia*,

a user authentication system comprising means for generating and storing **a user log**, the user log having a list of remote access call start times and a list of remote access call end times **for authorized users connected to the plurality of unrelated host computer networks via the system**; and

a billing application in communication with the database and the system, the billing application responsive to receipt of the user log from the system **to generate a bill for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks based on the list of fees in the database.**
(emphasis added)

The system of claim 1 relates to a billing system tied to a secure remote access system where unrelated organizations may use a third party security service bureau to authenticate remotely located users to the particular company's host computer system.

As recited in claim 1, a user authentication system with means for generating and storing a user log is set forth where the user log contains information on authorized users that were connected to an appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks through the user authentication system. As set out in the specification, as for example at paragraphs 0014 to 0015 (pages 5-6), the user authentication system creates a computer usage log containing times for authorized users connected to their respective host computer systems.

Also as recited in claim 1, a billing application is set forth that receives the log of computer usage from the authentication server and creates a bill for each of the unrelated host computer networks based on specific fees accrued by each network. As set forth in paragraphs 0013 and 0016-0018 (pages 5-7) of the specification, embodiments of this billing application discuss how each host computer network receives a bill summarizing costs associated with activities from the authorized users accessing the host computer network.

The Hogan reference fails to teach or suggest a user authentication system that generates or stores remote computer access times. The Hogan reference also fails to teach or suggest that a log of computer access times for authorized users of a host computer network. Instead, Hogan teaches generic telephone call tracking in a telephone network. Because Hogan lacks at least the features of claim 1 discussed

above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2-10 are dependent claims, therefore their allowability directly follows from the allowability of independent claim 1.

Claim 11

The Examiner has also rejected independent claim 11 as obvious over the Hogan reference. Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 11 of the present application relates to a method of monitoring access to each of a plurality of host computer networks by a plurality of authorized users for those host computer networks via a network access server. The method includes the acts of:

maintaining a list of host computer networks and an associated list of authorized users for each host computer network in a first memory device;

automatically creating a starting time stamp at the beginning of a remote access call received from an authorized user at a communication server **and connecting the authorized user to an appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks after determining at the network access server that the authorized user is authorized to connect to the appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks;**

automatically creating an ending time stamp at a conclusion of the remote access call;

storing the starting and ending time stamps for the remote access call in a user log in the network access server, the starting and ending time stamps associated with the list of authorized users whereby the user log contains **a record of computer time usage for each authorized user;**

receiving a long distance telephone company report containing charges associated with each of the respective unrelated host computer networks;

for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks, **generating a billing summary listing charges for each user and each department within a host computer network by accessing information from the user log and the telephone company report with a billing application;** and

electronically transmitting each billing summary to an appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks.

(emphasis added)

Unlike Hogan, where a generic billing system is described for billing callers making calls through a “call processing system AB102”, the method of claim 11 requires maintaining a list of host computer networks and an associated list of authorized users for each host computer network. The invention of claim 11 relates to tracking usage of a particular host computer network accessed by an authorized user of that host computer network and not simply the time a user spends on the telephone. The elements of “authorized users,” “list of host computer networks” and “an associated list of authorized users” are indicative of the fact that the tracking and billing acts are related to an authentication process between a remotely located user and the host computer network for which he/she is authorized to access. Claim 11 also recites that the act of determining computer network authorization and connecting the authorized user to the appropriate host computer network is part of the monitoring/billing process. Hogan completely lacks any teaching or suggestion of an authentication process between remote users and host computer networks using a security service bureau, or of tracking computer usage based on the connection through an authentication service.

The passages from Hogan cited by the Examiner are inapposite. Applicant acknowledges that telephone systems will often generically track telephone call length with reference to starting and stopping times of the call. However, the lengthy citation to the description in Hogan of providing call cost estimates, debit card call handling, a telephone bill based on call length and rate, and etc. is at best marginally related to the subject matter of claim 11. Hogan is completely missing many of acts set forth in claim 11, such as maintaining a list of authorized users and associated host computer networks or creating a starting time stamp and connecting an authorized user to an appropriate host computer network after determining at the network access server that the authorized user is authorized to connect to the appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks. Hogan also fails to teach or suggest many other acts specifically recited in claim 11, including the specifically recited step of generating a

billing summary listing charges for each user and each department within a host computer network by accessing information from the user log and the telephone company report with a billing application.

Although Hogan discloses generic telephone call tracking, it lacks any teaching or suggestion of monitoring a connection to a separate host computer network or doing the monitoring in the context of a security service bureau that authenticates users to their respective unrelated host computer network.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 distinguishes over the cited art. Claim 12 is a dependent claim, therefore its allowability directly follows from allowability of independent claim 11.

B. Rejection of claims 3, 6 and 8 over Pepe et al. (US 5,742,905)

Claims 3, 6 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, therefore Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as provided for claim 1.

C. Rejection of claims 2, 5, 7, 9-10 and 12 over Hogan et al. and "Official Notice"

Claims 2, 5, 7 and 9-10 depend from independent claim 1 and claim 12 depends from independent claim 11, therefore Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as provided for their respective independent claims.

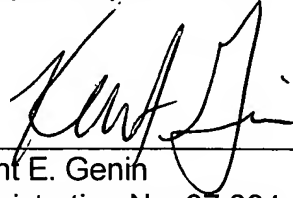
V. Conclusion

Applicant notes that the application papers filed December 18, 2001, included an information disclosure statement that was not acknowledged in this Office Action. Applicant resubmits a copy of the information disclosure statement, along with a copy of the post card evidencing receipt, for the Examiner's convenience. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner sign and return the enclosed PTO-1449 to the undersigned.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121, a marked-up version of amended claim 8 is attached at Appendix A. If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed

below in order to expedite disposition of this application. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-12 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent E. Genin', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, there is a long, thin, diagonal line extending upwards and to the right.

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